

climbed the mountain the following day, taking only seven and a half hours to reach the summit in perfect weather. In 2007 their attempt on the southeast face had been straightforward snow climbing, but this time the route was dry and icy with sections of loose rock (up to 50°). They reached the east ridge at 5,900m and continued up the difficult 40° sawtooth crest, the crux of the climb. Although a calendar winter ascent, the climb falls outside the official Nepalese winter season, which runs from December 1 to February 15.

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Teng Kangpoche (6,487m), first authorized ascent; northwest face, Checkmate. The most significant pre-monsoon climb in Nepal was Simon Anthamatten and Ueli Steck's ascent of the northwest face of Teng Kangpoche. Incidentally, it was also the first official ascent of this much-coveted summit to the west of Kwangde. (A confirmed but unauthorized ascent took place in 1984 from the south via the east ridge.) The Swiss pair climbed a line between the north pillar and the line of previous attempts on the northwest face. Anthamatten and Steck summited on April 24 (1,700m, UIAA VI A0 M7+ WI5). A complete account appears in the feature section of this *Journal*.

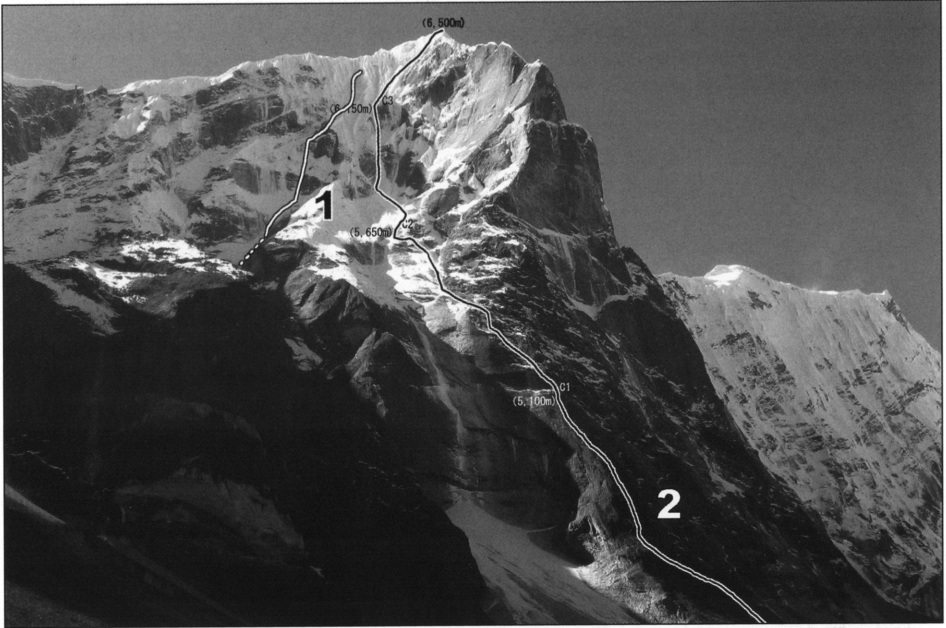
Teng Kangpoche (6,487m), northwest face, attempts. In early November Silvestre Barrientos, Manuel Córdova, and Sidarta Gallego almost repeated the 2004 route, Edge of Darkness (not to summit), on the northwest face, then west ridge, of Teng Kangpoche. This line by Nick Bullock and Nick Carter is well right of the summit, more or less leading to the 6,200m low point on the ridge between Teng Kangpoche and Panalotapa (6,687m). After an ascent of 1,450m and difficulties of TD+/ED1 Scottish IV, with an ungradable Peruvian-esque final pitch to the ridge, Bullock and Carter bivouacked and next day decided the remaining kilometer of ridge to the summit would require "very special techniques." They rappelled their route.

The three Spanish climbers found difficulties of WI5 (70-90°) but did not complete the final pitch to the ridge due to poor conditions. Aitor Abendano and Jonatan Larranaga, from the same expedition, climbed the line again a week later. This pair also spent two days on the face but were prevented from reaching the summit ridge by high winds and cold. They rappelled the face, using the anchors left by their countrymen.

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Teng Kangpoche (6,487m), northeast face, Moonlight. In November Hiroyoshi Manome and Yasushi Okada made the long-awaited first ascent of the northeast face of Teng Kangpoche. The pair, who in 2006 made the third ascent of Meru Central, made base camp in a Tenpo Village lodge, acclimatized from October 31 to November 3 with an ascent of Parchamo, and on November 9 reconnoitered the initial, rocky, left crest of the central (north) pillar, reaching 5,050m. This involved sections of difficult climbing, sometimes using rock shoes and two ice tools, which was particularly effective on vegetated ground. They left two ropes on the difficult pitches and descended.

Manome and Okada began a serious attempt alpine style on the 12th, making their first bivouac on a terrace at 5,000m. Next day they stepped left onto the northeast face and made rapid progress, thanks to their acclimatization, bivouacking at 5,650m. Hoping to reach the



The northeast face of Tengkangpoche (6,487m). Marked are (1) the Japanese attempt to ca 6,250m (Arai-Nagato, 2008) and (2) Moonlight (Manome-Okada, 2008). To the right, the north pillar has been attempted several times; the best effort to date, by Canadians in 2006, reached a high point of 5,800m. The new Swiss route, Checkmate, is hidden right of the pillar. In 2003 Nick Bullock soloed a line toward the left edge of the picture to reach the east ridge, but did not continue to the summit. *Yasushi Okada*

summit the next day, they left their bivouac equipment and set off up the icefield above. It proved surprisingly big, and they were forced to bivouac without gear at 6,150m, sitting on a carved snow ledge. During this day, they found an old piton at 5,750m [likely from the French team of Walfroy Constant, Henri Faup, Severin Marchand, Pierre Pipon, and Hervé Qualizza, which reached 6,100m in 2002]. The night proved intolerably cold, forcing them to resume climbing with headlamps at 3 a.m. After pitching the upper icefield for six hours, most of this time threatened by summit cornices that occasionally shed ice blocks, they simulclimbed to the east ridge, from where it was only a short distance to the top. Carrying no water and dehydrated, they reached the summit at 10:45 a.m. It was covered with dangerously unstable sugar-snow, and they took turns standing on top. After an efficient series of rappels with their 80m rope, they were at the bottom of the face by 12:30 a.m. on the 16th, collecting their remaining gear before descending to Tenpo the same day. They graded the 1,900m route, Moonlight, ED.

At the same time countrymen Kenji Arai and Takaaki Nagato were attempting another route, farther left on the northeast face. They started up the big couloir left of the obvious quasi-vertical ice streaks on smooth granite walls, then slanted right up steep, difficult ground, eventually retreating a short distance below the east ridge at 6,250m.

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Kwangde Nup (6,035m), northeast face, Between Sun and Shadow (to 5,910m). From October 19 to 21 Martin Klestinec and I climbed a new line on the northeast face of Kwangde Nup,